



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

AGENDA
SEVEN BENDS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Virtual Public Input Meeting
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
6:30 P.M.

Registration link: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/se-masterplan-public-input-meeting>

Agenda

Welcome
Introduction to the Virginia State Park system
Orientation to Seven Bends State Park
Overview of state park master planning process
Overview of VDOT access study
Review proposed master plan revisions for Seven Bends State Park
Public Comment Period (30 days, Feb. 1, 2022)
Next Steps
Adjourn

THANK YOU!

Written public comments will be accepted for Seven Bends State Park until 5:00 p.m.
on **Feb. 1, 2022.**

Please make comments to:

**Bill Conkle, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 600 E. Main St., 24th Floor,
Richmond, VA 23219**
bill.conkle@dcr.virginia.gov, fax 804-371-7899

GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING PUBLIC INPUT FOR SEVEN BENDS STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

During the public input portion of the meeting, the staff and master plan committee will review and record everyone who wishes to comment on the plan via the Chat Box. If a previous comment has stated your position, you may make that known by reference. In order to give all comments equal treatment and courtesy, we ask that all adhere to the following guidelines:

- Add your comments into the Chat Box during the public comment portion of the meeting.
- Include your name.
- Public comments are only accepted from the Chat Box.
- State your comment and give facts and other data to support your position.
- If you represent a group or organization, please indicate that.
- Back-and-forth debate is prohibited during the public input session.
- Written statements and other supporting material are also welcomed if you do not wish to speak.

General notes will be taken on your spoken comments.

Written comments will also be accepted tonight and up until 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2022.

Please send written comments to:

Bill Conkle, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 600 E. Main St., 24th Floor,
Richmond, VA 23219

bill.conkle@dcr.virginia.gov, fax 804-371-7899

DCR Mission Statement

Conserve, protect, enhance and advocate wise use of the commonwealth's unique natural, historical, recreational, scenic and cultural resources.

State Parks Mission Statement

To conserve the natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources of the Commonwealth and provide recreational and educational opportunities consistent with the good stewardship of these lands, waters and facilities that leave them unimpaired for future generations.

Seven Bends State Park Purpose Statement

The purpose of Seven Bends State Park, the gateway to the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, is to provide water and land based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities while protecting and interpreting the spectacular scenic viewshed and the unique geological, natural, and historical resources of the storied seven bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Virginia.

Seven Bends State Park Goals and Objectives

These seven goals were established to provide a wide range of traditional and unique park experiences with appropriate support facilities that are managed by well-equipped and trained staff.

Goal 1.0 – Protect and conserve the scenic and natural resources of the Park.

Goal 2.0 – Protect and conserve the historic and cultural resources of the Park.

Goal 3.0: Provide recreational opportunities for day-use visitors to the park.

Goal 4.0 – Provide enhanced facilities for overnight visitors to the park.

Goal 5.0 – Provide environmental education and cultural interpretive services to the public.

Goal 6.0 – Participate in mutually beneficial efforts with partner organizations and neighbors to enhance the entire region.

Goal 7.0 – Administer and manage the Park in a manner that fosters the public's trust.

Seven Bends State Park Phasing Proposal

Before construction of major improvements to the park can begin the park access road(s) will need to be upgraded to allow construction vehicles to access the park. Consideration should be given to including bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along this road to connect the park to the town.

Upgrade of Park Access along Hollingsworth Road to cross the North Fork is estimated at \$14.7 million. See VDOT Access Study at -

https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/staunton/shenandoah_county_8211_seven_bends_state_park_study.asp

Phase I

Group camp for volunteers – small shelter, vault toilet, water

Develop infrastructure – water, sewer, electric [underground], telephone, internet, internal roads

Staff Residence

Contact station with electricity

Visitor Center – Phase One w/ offices, parking and a small exhibit area [750 sq. ft.]

Expand maintenance complex

Day-Use facilities:

- 2 River bank platforms
- River-side trail
- Picnic area along the river with large shelter, restrooms and parking
- Upgrade park multi-use trail system
- Connector trail to the GW-Jefferson NF from trailhead parking
- Improve existing play area, add a shelter

Complete protection of Woodstock Reservoir sites

Develop an interpretive area w/ outdoor classroom, viewing platform and gazebo

Phase II

Develop additional infrastructure – water, sewer, electric [underground], telephone, internet, internal roads

Environmental Education addition to the Visitor Center w/ meeting spaces, more exhibits, wet lab, and special interest housing

10 yurts with amenities

20 primitive campsites with bathhouse [to be shared w/ yurts]

Expand Maintenance Facility on Lupton side

Staff residence

Extend trail system

More accessible trail between boat launches

Phase III

Boat launch on Lupton side with parking for 20, water & vault toilet

Trail system expansion

2 observation decks

Expand current picnic and parking on Hollingsworth side